

Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority:

Authority for creation, duties and operation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Director, and the Natural Resources Commission is contained in the Nebraska Constitution, Article XV, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Nebraska Statutes: Chapter 2, Articles 15, 32 and 46; Chapter 11, Article 1; Chapter 16, Article 6; Chapter 31, Articles 4, 5, and 10; Chapter 33, Article 1, all of Chapter 46; Chapter 54, Article 24; Chapter 56, Article 1; Chapter 61, Article 2; Chapter 66, Article 11; Chapter 81, Articles 1, 15 and 26; and Chapter 84, Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska including the 1998, 1999, and yet to be published 2000 Supplements.

Vision Statement:

Provide quality service with a professional work force dedicated to the management and conservation of the land and water resources of the State of Nebraska.

Mission Statement:

Administer and regulate surface water; direct floodplain management and dam safety programs; assemble and share data on land, water and related resources in a user friendly manner; provide natural resources planning assistance; register ground water wells and issue permits, management of state cost-sharing programs in an expedient and cost-effective manner to assure proper use and protection of Nebraska's land, water and related resources.

Goals:

1. Completion of the merger including full integration of agency functions, a joint budget, fully integrated working relationships and cultures, and an established productive working relationship with natural resource interests throughout the state.
2. Final settlement of the North Platte River lawsuit with Wyoming and the establishment of the necessary process to insure the operation of that settlement.
3. Provide the Water Rights Division with the necessary technical and financial tools to insure that all well registrations and surface water rights are current and accurate.
4. Achieve success in the Platte River Cooperative Agreement process.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	15,573,950	17,531,278	23,613,352	17,814,173	19,483,828	19,341,666
Cash Fund	2,481,261	3,485,825	1,090,125	1,100,125	855,825	865,825
Federal Fund	196,417	277,000	345,000	277,000	345,000	277,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	18,251,628	21,294,103	25,048,477	19,191,298	20,684,653	20,484,491

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Program 044 - Departmental Administration

Program Objectives:

Program 044 will no longer exist under the accounting and budgeting system of the new agency and all functions are transferred to program 334. Historical budget information and the current operating budget for the Natural Resources Commission budget through June 30, 2001 are displayed in the budget documents.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	394,064	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	394,064	0	0	0	0	0

Performance Measures:

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Program 303 - Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

Program Objectives:

1. Maintain the asset value of the Fund (cash and real estate) at a minimum of one million.
2. Make funds available for sponsors in order to expedite the construction of cost effective flood control projects.
3. Assist project sponsors in their utilization of the fund and management of lands.
4. Sell lands acquired in fee title on a timely basis to maximize the revolving nature of the fund.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	348,109	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Cash Fund	199,606	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	547,715	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000

Performance Measures:

The objective of the program is to provide financial assistance to local units of government in the procurement of lands, easements and rights-of-way that are needed for construction of Commission approved flood control projects. Secondary objectives are to assist in accelerating the watershed planning process and to assist sponsors in all aspects of land rights acquisition and land management. The Commission has been assigned, by law, the responsibility for flood control programs, and the financial assistance provided to local sponsors for land rights acquisition under this program is an integral part of the total flood control program.

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Program 304 - Soil & Water Conservation Fund

Program Objectives:

The goal of this program is to preserve the productive capacity of the State's land and water resource base through assistance to private landowners for the installation of soil and water conservation practices. A more specific goal is to operate the fund in a manner that best utilizes the funds available to achieve the highest level of "on the land" conservation. A special appropriation of \$500,000 per year was made to this fund to cost-share on water meters to be installed on irrigation wells in the Republican River alluvium and to cost-share on measuring devices for all surface water withdrawals. Meeting the requirements of that legislation and achieving full operation of those provisions in the current year is a specific goal.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	4,242,555	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
Cash Fund	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,242,555	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147

Performance Measures:

Description	FY00 Actual	FY01 Current	FY02 Request	FY03 Request
Appropriation	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
Expenditure	4,234,380	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
Claims Paid	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
Feet of Terraces	2,025,913	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
Feet of Terrace Outlets	291,280	300,000	300,000	300,000
Dams	53	50	50	50
Grade Structures	23	25	25	25
Reuse Pits	6	6	6	6
Diversions	61	60	60	60
Acres of Waterways	864	750	750	750
Water Control Basins	51	40	40	40
Dugouts	28	30	30	30
Acres of Grass Seeding	5,591	4,800	4,800	4,800
Acres of Windbreaks	1,444	1,250	1,250	1,250
# of Planned Grazing Systems	407	400	400	400
Acres of Grazing Systems	254,407	250,000	250,000	250,000
# of Irrig. Water Mgmt. Systems	194	200	200	200
Acres of Irrigation Mgmt.	23,202	24,000	24,000	24,000
Rep. Basin Water Meters	607	800	800	800

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Program 306 - Water Well Decommissioning Fund

Program Objectives:

To provide financial assistance to landowners to plug or "decommission" water wells that are no longer in use so that those wells cannot serve as a conduit for contaminants to enter the groundwater aquifer or so that the well cannot be a safety hazard.

The funds are paid to Natural Resources Districts that administer qualified decommissioning programs. Twenty of the twenty-three NRDs participate in the program. The source of funds for this program is thirty dollars of each well registration fee.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	23,264	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	86,253	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	109,517	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840

Performance Measures:

The only performance measure is the number of water wells decommissioned:

	FY 98 Actual	FY 99 Actual	FY 00 Actual
# of Wells Decommissioned	708	912	979

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Program 307 - Resources Development Fund

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund (NRDF) was created in 1974 to assist with the development and wise use of Nebraska's land and water resources. Funds are used to make grants and/or loans to political subdivisions for projects that provide land and water resource benefits to the citizens of Nebraska. Project applicants must demonstrate technical, economic, and financial feasibility and environmental acceptability. Project grants can be up to 75% of a project's eligible costs and loans can be up to 90%. A grant/loan combination can also be provided for up to 90% of a project's eligible costs.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	905,402	2,170,000	4,170,000	2,170,000	4,170,000	2,170,000
Cash Fund	76,738	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	982,140	2,220,000	4,220,000	2,220,000	4,220,000	2,220,000

Performance Measures:

The primary objectives for this program relate to the efficient operation of the fund and the use of state dollars to leverage other available funds for each project. This can best be achieved by keeping an even flow of new projects, projects under construction and projects nearing completion. Therefore, the performance measures presented relate to the number of projects in various stages and the dollars involved.

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Program 308 - Soil Survey Fund

Program Objectives:

The goal for this program is to maintain a modern and usable modern soil survey for the entire state and to make quality soils information available in a digital format. The dollars appropriated to the soil survey fund are, by law, passed through in their entirety to the Conservation and Survey Division of UNL, who is the cooperating soil survey agency in Nebraska. While the Conservation and Survey Division and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA do the actual field soil survey work, the Department is working cooperatively with these two agencies to digitize the soils information so that they can be available to users in a digital format. This is a primary emphasis of work at this time.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	130,202	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	130,202	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061

Performance Measures:

The field work for the modern soil surveys for all counties are now completed, with only Cherry and Sheridan counties yet to be published. Revised soil surveys to provide updated information to better complement today's technology and provide the best information to use with current applications are being completed on a priority basis. Sarpy, Gage, Kimball and Hall counties are completed. Survey work is also being updated in the entire Central Platte Natural Resources District.

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Program 309 - Natural Resources Enhancement Fund

Program Objectives:

The Natural Resources Enhancement Fund was created to provide Natural Resources Districts with funds for water quality programs. The source of the funds is a one dollar per ton fee on commercial fertilizer sold in Nebraska and under current law the fee will lapse as of December 31, 2000 and therefore no request is being made. The Department serves as the administrative body to pass the funds through to the NRDs.

The Natural Resources Commission has established rules and regulations for the operation of the fund and the requirements that the NRDs must meet to be eligible to receive the funds. NRDs must provide one dollar for each three dollars received from the Fund.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	2,113,000	2,500,000	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,113,000	2,500,000	0	0	0	0

Performance Measures:

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Program 310 - Planning & Review Process

Program Objectives:

Program 310 will no longer exist under the accounting and budgeting system of the new agency and all functions are transferred to program 334. Historical budget information and the current operating budget for the Natural Resources Commission budget through June 30, 2001 is displayed in the budget documents.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	168,629	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	168,629	0	0	0	0	0

Performance Measures:

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Program 331 - Nebraska Water Rights

Program Objectives:

Nebraska v. Wyoming: Nebraska filed a water rights lawsuit against Wyoming in 1986. After more than a decade of pre-trial motions and evidence gathering and two interim decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, the case has been scheduled for trial in 2000 before a Special Master appointed by the U. S. Supreme Court. Trial may last a year or longer depending upon the schedule established by the Special Master.

Kansas v. Nebraska: Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado was brought by Kansas against Nebraska for alleged violations of the 1943 Republican River Compact. Nebraska has denied the allegations set forth in Kansas' Bill of Complaint and has filed a counterclaim against Kansas and a cross-claim against Colorado. The U.S. Supreme Court has referred the matter to a Special Master.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	4,477,600	5,538,252	9,182,557	5,360,905	5,012,557	6,660,905
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,477,600	5,538,252	9,182,557	5,360,905	5,012,557	6,660,905

Performance Measures:

Objective measures do not exist for inputs, outputs, efficiencies and quality. One could develop a study to compare expected future flows in the North Platte River with and without the settlement and/or lawsuit. More subjective but perhaps more important, one could monitor the nature of the interstate relationships with and without settlement.

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Program 334 - Soil & Water Conservation

Program Objectives:

This program represents the majority of the new agency's operating functions and all personnel. FY00 actual expenditures include operating expenses prior to the merger of the Department of Water Resources and the Natural Resources Commission into the Department of Natural Resources. Activities include agency and fund administration, planning, groundwater registrations, flood plain and dam safety program administration, and administration of water rights.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	2,078,781	5,511,818	5,949,587	5,972,060	5,990,063	6,199,553
Cash Fund	0	251,985	356,285	366,285	121,985	131,985
Federal Fund	169,121	277,000	345,000	277,000	345,000	277,000
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,247,902	6,040,803	6,650,872	6,615,345	6,457,048	6,608,538

Performance Measures:

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Program 527 - Administration Of Water Rights

Program Objectives:

Program 527 will no longer exist under the accounting and budgeting system of the new agency and all functions are transferred to program 334. Historical budget information and the current operating budget for the Department of Water Resources budget through June 30, 2001 is displayed in the budget documents.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	2,805,344	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	5,664	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	27,296	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,838,304	0	0	0	0	0

Performance Measures: